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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

PRIORITY

Intelligence Information Cable

COUNTRY BOLIVIA

DISTR. 27 MAY 1965

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs
(C)

SUBJECT

SITUATION REPORT AS OF 1030 HOURS LOCAL, 27 MAY 1965

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REF

1. AT 0020 HOURS ON 27 MAY TWO SOUND TRUCKS ENTERED THE FACTORY WORKERS DISTRICT OF LA PAZ AND BEGAN BROADCASTING THAT EVERYONE SHOULD LEAVE THEIR HOMES AS "WE ARE TAKING POWER TODAY." AT 0030 HOURS HEAVY FIRING BROKE OUT IN VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE CITY. SMALL GROUPS OF ARMED PERSONS BEGAN THE FIRING ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY. [REDACTED] WORKERS IN THE FACTORY DISTRICT IDENTIFIED THE NATIONAL LEFTIST REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (PRIN) AS THE ANNOUNCER BROADCASTING ON THE SOUND TRUCKS.)

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2. THE POINTS OF FIGHTING DURING THE ENSUEING SEVERAL HOURS WERE AT THE ESTADO MAYOR, THE EL ALTO AIRPORT, THE FACTORY WORKERS DISTRICT, AND THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. THERE MAY HAVE BEEN OTHER AREAS UNDER FIRE, BUT THEY ARE NOT KNOWN AT THE PRESENT TIME. BY 0620 ALL WAS QUIET AND THERE WAS NO SOUND OF GUN FIRE. GENERAL ALFREDO OVANDO CANDIA HAD BEEN AT THE ESTADO MAYOR WHEN THE FIGHTING BROKE OUT AND REMAINED THERE THROUGHOUT. GENERAL RENE BARRIENTOS ORTUNO WAS ASLEEP IN HIS HOME AT THE TIME OF THE OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES AND REMAINED THERE UNTIL THE FIRING CEASED. THE PEOPLE IN THE BARRIENTOS CAMP BELIEVE THAT THE BOLIVIAN SOCIALIST FALANGE (FSB) WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE NIGHT'S ACTIONS.

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3. UNDER CONSIDERATION AT THE PRESENT TIME IS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MARTIAL LAW TO REPLACE THE STATE OF SIEGE. THE EXACT TERMS OF THE MARTIAL LAW, IF IMPOSED, ARE NOT YET KNOWN.

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TROOPS FULLY ARMED ARE NOW BEING DEPLOYED IN ALL STRATEGIC PLACES
IN AND OVERLOOKING THE CITY OF LA PAZ. ([REDACTED])

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3. THE CITY OF LA PAZ IS FUNCTIONING NORMALLY AT THIS TIME,
EXCEPT FOR THE LACK OF ELECTRICITY IN CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL
SECTIONS, WHICH IS THE RESULT OF LAST NIGHT'S FIGHTING. THERE
ARE NO INDICATIONS AT THIS TIME OF ARMED FIGHTING IN LA PAZ OR
THE REST OF THE COUNTRY. [REDACTED]

4. [REDACTED] DISSEM: STATE ARMY AIR CINCSO.

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(END OF MESSAGE)

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